THE DECLARATION

Of his Highneſſe

PRINCE *CHARLES*,

TO

All *His Majeſties* loving Subjects, concerning the grounds and ends of His preſent Engagement upon the FLEET in the *Downes*.

WITH

His Highneſſe LETTER

TO

The *Lord Major*, *Aldermen*, and *Common Councell* of the City of LONDON.

LONDON.
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The DECLARATION *of His Highneſſe Prince* CHARLES.

HOw naturally and ſtrongly our particular intereſt inclineth us to contribute our utmoſt endeavours towards the ſetling of a wel-grounded laſting Peace, in all His Majeſties Dominions, is notoriouſly evident to every man of common underſtanding, that conſidereth the relation we have to them, as Heire apparent to the Crowne, together with the meaſure of our preſent ſufferings, and the portion which we are to expect, in ſuch a happy ſetlement: Beſides which particular conſideration, we find our ſelf charged with a more publick duty, both to the KING our Father in His preſent diſtreſſe, as likewiſe to all His loyall Subjects, in this their common calamity, obliging us to lay hold on all opportunities which ſhall be offered us, proper to obtain this bleſſed Peace, that only being able to free His Majeſty and all His good people from their preſent ſufferings, and to reſtore Him and them to that happineſſe, which the practices, power, and violence of evill men (the now Enemies of Peace) have bereav'd them of. This bleſſed Peace is that which we humbly and earneſtly implore of Almighty God in our dayly Prayers; and which is, and ſhall be the principall and ultimate end of all our Counſels and reſolutions, and particularly of this our preſent undertaking, on which we beg a bleſſing of the God of Peace, as this our profeſſion is reall and ſincere. Neither ought it to ſeem ſtrange to any, that thus profeſſing for Peace, We now appear in Armes, as well in perſon at Sea, as likewiſe by our

correſpondency and Commiſſions at Land, ſince the malice & wicked Arts of theſe Peace-haters (againſt whom we now declare, as publique Enemies to God and good men) have rendered all other endeavours to obtain the ſame, vaine and ineffectuall, and thereby (utterly obſtructing all means of reconciliation betwixt His Majeſty and His People) have compelled us to this laſt, & indeed onely expedient that is left us. So that being thus neceſſitated, either to ſit ſtil as unconcern'd, whilſt the KING our Father is a *cloſe Priſoner* in the power of His Enemies, and whilſt all His good people lie miſerably groaning under the cruell Tyranny of fellow Subjects, or by force of Armes, to endevour to free Him and them from theſe unheard-of outrages, as our election in this caſe is eaſily made; ſo ought all men to look upon us thus engaged, as acting in order to that Peace, and proſecuting the onely means left to obtaine the ſame. Being thus rightly underſtood, by thoſe whoſe Intereſt as well as their duty obligeth them to joyne with us in this good worke, as we ſhall in the firſt place looke up to Heaven for a bleſſing from the Lord of Hoſts on this good Cauſe; ſo we ſhall deſire and expect, the ready and cheerfull aſſiſtance, of the hearts and hands of all His Majeſties good Subjects, as opportunity effectually to appeare with and for us, ſhall be offered to them. And that the uſuall cunning Arts of their and our Enemies may not abuſe any of them with falſe ſuggeſtions, or miſ-interpretations of our proceedings, We hereby, with that candor & ſincerity, which becomes a Chriſtian and a Prince, doe declare and publiſh to the whole world, That the true grounds, reaſons and ends of this our Engagement, are theſe hereafter mentioned, and none other. 1. *The honour of Gods holy name, in the defence of the true Proteſtant Religion, and his Divine Worſhip, againſt all Oppoſers whatſoever, and particularly againſt the Hereſies, Schiſmes, ſcandalous Doctrines, and practiſes declared againſt in His Majeſties Agreement with the* Scots *Commiſſioners, bearing date at* Carisbrook-Caſtle *the* 26 *day of* Decemb. *laſt: and the eſtabliſhing of Church Government as is therein mentioned and accorded to by His Majeſty, as alſo the mutuall performance of the ſaid Agreement.* 2. *The reſtoring of His Majeſty to His Liberty and juſt Rights, and in order thereunto, and for the ſetling of a happy Peace, a ſpeedy Perſonall Treaty with His Majeſty with Honour, Freedome, and Safety.* 3. *The ſupport and defence of the known Laws of the Kingdome.* 4. *The maintenance of the Freedome and juſt Priviledges of Parliament.* 5. *The defence of the Liberty and Property of the Subject, againſt all violence,*

lence, rapine, and oppreſſion, ſuch as are Exciſe, Contribution, Free-quarter, and all other illegall Taxes. 6. The obtaining of ſuch an Act of Oblivion and Indempnity, as may moſt firmly bind up the bond of Peace. 7. The ſpeedy diſbanding of all Armies, and particularly that under the command of the Lord Fairfax. *8. The defence of the Honour of the Engliſh Nation, and His Majeſties Rights in the Narrow Seas, the protection and ſecurity of the Trade of all His Majeſties loyall Subjects, the ſupport of the Navy Royall, and the encouragement of all the Officers and Mariners of the ſame; to whoſe exemplary courage, conduct, and good affections, we owe this preſent opportunity, with them thus to appear for Peace.*

And now having thus fully and ſincerely declared our intentions and reſolutions, we earneſtly invite, and by the authority as well inherent in our Perſon, during His Majeſties reſtraint, as alſo derived particularly and formally from Him under the Great Seale of *England*, do require and command all His Majeſties loyall Subjects, heartily to joyn and aſſociate themſelves with us in this our undertaking, and with force of Armes under Us, as likewiſe by all other good means in their power, to oppoſe and reſiſt all ſuch perſons and Forces, as well by Land as Sea, as ſhall oppoſe Us and this bleſſed Peace; As likewiſe, to be aiding and aſſiſting to all ſuch as are now in Arms againſt thoſe Enemies of Peace, and particularly to encourage, aide, and relieve as friends and Brethren the *Scots Army*, now on their March for His Majeſties reſcue; of whoſe loyalty to His Majeſty, and good affections to the Kingdome of *England*, we are fully ſatisfied. And we more eſpecially exhort the City of *London*, and the Port-towns of *England* (upon whoſe Actions the Eyes of the whole Kingdome are particularly fixed) by their good example to encourage all the people of *England*, manfully to ſhake off the heavy yoke now impoſed on them by force of Armes, as on a Conquered Nation, and in ſtead of that lawleſſe power which now depriveth them of the ſecurity of their Perſons, and the property of their Goods and Eſtates, to vindicate the juſt Rights of Free-born Subjects of *England*, in ſeeking their protection under the Government of their undoubted Soveraign Lord our Royall Father, and the Law of the Land. Upon theſe foundations by the bleſſing of God, on the cheerful and effectual concurrence of the now undeceived People of *England*, we ſhall yet hope for ſuch a ſpeedy concluſion of the preſent diſtractions, as may prevent the further unnaturall effuſion of Chriſtian and Engliſh bloud, and the miſeries of a new Warre. To which end, that all prejudices

whatsoever (so far as possibly shall be in our power) may be removed: We further declare, That we shall not onely willingly decline the unpleasing memory of all that is past, so far as may concern any, who upon this our invitation shall return to their duty; but shall very particularly accept of, and esteem the persons and assistance of those (howsoever formerly mis-led) which shal now joyne with us: And in particular we hereby promise, that all such Officers and Souldiers in the Ld *Fairfax's* Army (without exception) as likewise all such Officers and Sea-men with the E. of *Warwicke* (of the good affections of most of whom we are well assured) as shall, upon the first proper opportunity quit that their engagement, shall be fully satisfied of their Pay and Arrears due unto them, with assurance of such Indempnity as they shal propound, and shall be safely received into our protection and care. In the last place, we shal desire, that no interessed persons will misinterpret the present stop of any Vessels, or Merchandises now made by us here in the *Downes*, our intention not being to break bulk, or alter the property of the Owners thereof, except we shall be compelled thereunto by the refusall of such reasonable and necessary support for our Navy, as may enable them and us to subsist, and proceed in our present undertaking. Which demand of ours (herewith sent to the City of *London*) we hope no man will think unreasonable, that considers, that by the Lawes of the Land and the practice of all times, the Customes and Sea-duties have been granted and ought to be employed for the maintenance of the KING's Navy, as the proper and naturall provision for the same.

And now for conclusion of what we have to say, We conjure all the good Subjects of *England*, by the duty they owe to God and man, and by all that is pretious to themselves, that they be not discouraged in their attempt to free the Nation from the Tyranny they live under, by obtaining (maugre all opposition) this blessed Peace (it being visible to all men, and confessed even by those that live upon the spoyle of the People, that nothing but a speedy Peace can preserve the Kingdome from utter ruine) but on the contrary, that they joyne and associate themselves as one man against the power and practises of all persons whatsoever, who under specious pretences propose to themselves their particular ambitious ends, in the change of the happy Government of *England*, which if not thus prevented, will necessitate not only the continuance of the present miseries, but will entaile the same to posterity, and kindle a bloudy War for many Generations to come; which God of his mercy divert.

To

To our right truſty and wel-beloved, and to our truſty and wel-beloved, the *Lord Mayor*, *Aldermen*, and *Common Councell* of the City of *London*.

Right truſty and wel-beloved, and truſty and wel-beloved, We greet you well. We have endeavoured by our publique Declaration *(which we ſend you herewith) to give ſatisfaction to the Whole Kingdome of* England, *in the grounds and reaſons of our preſent undertaking. But We think fit notwithſtanding to make a particular addreſſe to you (as the moſt conſiderable part of the Kingdome) being extreamly deſirous that the City of* London *ſhould be fully ſatisfied, that our intentions are juſt and honourable, and ſuch as We have profeſſed in our ſaid Declaration, for the peace and happineſſe of all His Majeſties Subjects. And We cannot deſpair of gaining a belief and confidence with you, When it ſhall appear that our Actions and proceedings are conformable to our profeſſions, and in order to thoſe publique ends and that happy ſetlement of the Kingdome, Which We have propoſed as the chief end of all our endeavours. And becauſe there are divers Ships now ſtayed in the* Downes *by our order, (Whereof ſome of great value belong to Members of the City of* London) *and to prevent all miſ-interpretation of our intentions in that particular We thinke fit to aſſure you, that We are ſo far from intending violence to the perſons or goods of any of that City, or any other particular advantage therein, that our only ayme and end is to procure a ſubſiſtance for the Navy under our command, that thereby we may be enabled to protect the Ships, Veſſels, and Goods, and to ſecure the Trade, not only of the City of* London, *but of all other His Majeſties good Subjects. And being for the preſent utterly unable to provide for ſo great a charge, as having been for ſome years deprived as well of our owne Eſtate, as of the ſupplies we might have drawn from the bounty of the* KING *our Royall Father, We thinke fit to*

have

have recourſe to you, deſiring you to ſupply Us with the preſent ſumme of 20000*l. to be imployed for the ſupport and ſubſiſtance of the Navy now under Our Command. To which end We ſhall put the ſame into the hands of ſuch perſons, as ſhall render an exact accompt thereof (which ſhall be communicated to you) And being thus furniſhed by you in this neceſſity, for which we have no other meanes to make proviſion, we ſhall immediately diſcharge all Ships of Merchandiſe, which have been ſtayed by our Fleet, though of a far greater value then the ſumme We deſire, and ſhall carefully hereafter protect the Ships and Goods, and ſecure the Trade and commerce of that City, which we conceive to be one of the proper and naturall imployments of His Majeſties Navy, and for which, as for other reaſons, it hath alwaies been maintained out of the Cuſtomes paid to His Majeſty, out of which as ſoon as it ſhall be in our power, We ſhall take care to have the ſaid ſumme of* 20000*l. repaid you. And ſo deſiring a preſent ſupply, the preſſing neceſſities of the Fleet admitting no delay, We bid you heartily forewell.*

¶ Given under our hand and Seale, the 29 of *July*, in the 24 year of the Reigne of our Royall Father the King.

The names of the Ships, with His Highneſſe Ships, with the number of Tuns, Guns, and Men.

	Tuns.	Guns.	Men.
The Conſtant Reformation.	850	50	260
The Converting.	650	40	170
The Swallow	650	36	160
The Antilope	600	36	160
The Satisfaction	300	28	100
The Conſtant Warwick	250	24	90
The Black-more Lady	180	18	80
The Creſcent	80	15	70
The Roe Buck	70	15	60
The Pellican	60	12	50
	3690	274	1200

The End.

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